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## March 19 Forum Asks: What Will Downtown Living Be in 10 Years?



The City of Raleigh continues to ponder the near future, this time examining Downtown living 10 years hence. What will that be like for children, families and elders?

Former City Council Member Anne S. Franklin's presentation will span the ages asking: What do today's middle school students have to say? Will aging in place be a viable option for seniors? What will parents of preschools want out of life Downtown?

The presentation is part of the City of Raleigh's 2013/2014 Education Forum that attempts to prepare for the future by examining Raleigh's challenges and opportunities 12 years or so down the road. The presentations begin at noon and are held in the City of Raleigh Urban Design Center, 220 Fayetteville St. (in the City of Raleigh Museum). There is no admission charged for the 90-minute Downtown conversations.

In addition to the March 19 presentation on the future of Downtown living, other events are on the education forum docket. They are:

### Population Growth, Sustainability and the Need for Urban Green Space – April 23

Danesha Seth Carley, PhD., assistant professor in North Carolina State University's Department of Crop Science queries "are many more people and a clearer Earth possible" by asking: Is there a place for "green space: in the city of the future? How can we increase and protect our green space and what value does that bring to our community? How will the city feed itself in an era of diminishing resources and an ever increasing carbon footprint?

### Downtown: An Engine for Wake County's Tourism Strategy – May 21

David Diaz, CEO of the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, and Julie Brakenbury, director of services for the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau offer a welcoming look into: The role of a downtown in attracting visitors. What are Downtown Raleigh's key strengths and challenges as a center for tourism? How does the Visitors Bureau quantify the economic impact of Downtown Raleigh's tourism assets?

### The Future of Solid Waste Management in Raleigh – June 18

Bianca Howard, community education specialist for the City of Raleigh's Solid Waste Services Department will explore what we will be throwing away in the future, asking: What will we consider waste in 2025? What will waste collection look like? How can we manage materials to capture their economic value and reduce environmental pollution?

For more information on the Education Forums, contact Beth Nooe at [beth.nooe@raleighnc.gov](mailto:beth.nooe@raleighnc.gov) or 919-996-4635.

## April 10 Public Meeting Set for Sandy Forks Road Widening Project

Raleigh residents are invited to attend a public meeting to discuss the proposed road improvements for Sandy Forks Road. The meeting will be at 6 p.m. on April 10 at the Millbrook Exchange Park Community Center, Conference Room #2, at 1905 Spring Forest Road.

The proposed improvements involve widening Sandy Forks Road between Six Forks Road and Falls of Neuse Road. The intersecting streets along Sandy Forks Road would also need improvements to properly align the roads. On Dec. 5, the City met with residents. At that time designs were 25 percent complete. The preliminary designs now are 65 percent complete.

The City will meet with the residents to explain the details of the preliminary design and explain how it may impact them. The City also will accept comments on the designs from the surrounding community.

From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., City staff and the design consultants from RK&K Engineers will be available to answer questions, discuss the mapping, and review the plans. At 6:30 p.m., the meeting will convene and a short presentation will be offered to explain the project and the designs. Afterward, attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

Individuals with hearing impairments needing interpreter services should provide 48-hour notice by calling 919-996-3100 (voice) or 919-996-3107 (TDD).

## **“Buy One, Get One Free” Promotion Returns To Yard Waste Center; Sale Now Applies to Compost**

With the arrival of warmer weather, many residents are returning to their yards and flowerbeds to prepare for springtime. Residents and businesses are invited to take advantage of a great deal on mulch or compost with a “Buy One, Get One Free” promotion at the City of Raleigh Yard Waste Center. The promotion is typically held each spring and fall to assist area residents with their landscaping needs. The spring promotion is available now through Wednesday, April 30.

For the first time with this promotion, the “Buy One, Get One Free” sale also applies to compost. Compost sold at the Yard Waste Center is STA-certified, which means the compost has been sampled and tested as required by the Seal of Testing Assurance Program of the United States Composting Council.

The City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services Department creates mulch from leaves, grass clippings, shrubbery trimmings, tree limbs, and other yard waste that is collected at the curb each week. The Yard Waste Center staff follows strict guidelines in producing high quality mulch for sale. The mulch is created in an all-natural facility using a month-long process to eliminate weed seeds, pesticides, or chemicals that can be found in yard waste.

Using locally made mulch for landscaping needs is a green choice, as it reduces fuel required in shipping. In addition, instead of using chemicals and energy to bag mulch for commercial sale, customers do the work of packaging the mulch themselves. Customers also are advised to consider the environmental costs of using garden products that are not quickly renewable, such as peat moss or cypress mulch.

Following is important information about the “Buy One, Get One Free” promotion:

- Unlike previous years, a coupon is not required for customers to take advantage of this promotion;
- The “Buy One, Get One Free” promotion applies only to mulch and compost;
- Customers must pick up purchased and free mulch in the same day;
- Customers may purchase mulch, compost, and other recycled

yard products in a variety of amounts, from a small bag or can to a bucket load of approximately 2.5 cubic yards, typically filling the bed of a pick-up truck; and,

- The Yard Waste Center and the “Buy One, Get One Free” promotion are open to anyone, including those who live outside of the City of Raleigh, as well as businesses, nonprofits, and contractors.

The City of Raleigh Yard Waste Center is located at 900 N. New Hope Road and is easily accessible from U.S. 64 Bypass or New Bern Avenue/U.S. 64 Business. The Yard Waste Center is open from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily, except Sundays. The facility will be open on Good Friday, April 18. The Yard Waste Center accepts cash, checks (with proper identification), and Visa and MasterCard credit cards.

You may contact the yard Waste Center at 919-250-2728

## **City’s Seasonal Leaf Collection Ends**

**The City of Raleigh’s seasonal loose leaf curbside collection program ended March 7 but the City offers other ways for residents to get rid of leaves throughout the year.**

The City of Raleigh’s seasonal loose leaf curbside collection program ended March 7 but the City offers other ways for residents to get rid of leaves throughout the year.

Residents may dispose of leaves on their weekly garbage and yard waste collection day. Leaves must be placed in biodegradable paper bags, clear plastic bags, or permanent containers with lifting handles. Permanent containers, such as a plastic or metal garbage can, should be no larger than 35 gallons and weigh no more than 75 pounds when full. Additional yard waste guidelines are posted on the Garbage Preparation page. The City’s yard waste collection guidelines are in place to help ensure the safety of City employees.

Another option that residents may pursue to dispose of leaves is to schedule loose leaf collection service through the City’s Transportation Field Services office at 919-996-6446. The office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays. Before calling, make sure your loose leaves are properly prepared (Annual Leaf Collection page). Residents will be asked for their name, address and phone number to be placed on the collection list. Leaf piles will be collected within one to three business days. There is no additional cost for this service.

Residents may also take their leaves or other yard waste to the City of Raleigh Yard Waste Recycling Center for a fee. The Yard Waste Center is located at 900 N. New Hope Road and may be reached at 919-250-2728..

## **First Downtown Plan Visioning Session Is Set for April 2**

The first Downtown Plan visioning session will be held on Wednesday, April 2, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Room 306 of the Raleigh Convention Center. The Downtown Plan is a project of the City of Raleigh and the Downtown Raleigh Alliance.

Residents are invited to attend the visioning session to provide input and learn of emerging trends, key issues, challenges and analysis findings. These findings are being compiled by Sasaki Associates Inc., which is leading the consultant team for the Downtown Plan. The visioning session also will include breakout group discussions on how Downtown Raleigh's role could evolve and transform over the next 10 years.

The Downtown Plan will create a 10-year vision that includes short-, mid-, and long-term improvements to Downtown Raleigh, with possible phasing scenarios that are widely supported and achievable. The Downtown Plan also is expected to identify and analyze redevelopment, public-realm, infrastructure, and connectivity improvements. The consultant team will work with stakeholders that include the Downtown Plan Advisory Committee, which was appointed by the City Council in December.

It is expected to take nine months to complete the Downtown Plan. Throughout the process, public events will be held in which citizens will be asked to provide input.

Additional Downtown Plan visioning sessions will be held in each of the five districts that encompass the Downtown area --- Fayetteville Street District, Capital District, Moore Square District, Glenwood South District and Warehouse District --- and in the Person Street/Seaboard Avenue area. Dates for those sessions have not been set.

An interactive website has been established that allows people to share their thoughts about Downtown today and in the future. Images and videos can be posted on the site. Additionally, the public can follow dialogue on the Downtown Plan process on Twitter using the hashtag #RaleighDTPlan.

For more information, contact Trisha Hasch at 919-996-4641.

## **"Constructs" Exhibition to Open at Municipal Building's Block Gallery On April 3**

"Constructs," an art exhibition sponsored by the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, will be on display April 3 to June 26 at the Miriam Preston Block Gallery in the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St. This is the second exhibition of the Block Gallery's 2014 season, the gallery's 30th year of exhibitions.

Featured in the exhibition are mixed-media works by Ryan Cummings and Sarah West. Works by Meg Stein will be showcased in the "Case Study" installation series.

An opening reception will be held on Thursday, April 3, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Block Gallery.

The "Constructs" artists explore the complexities of memory, dreams and human experience through mixed-media applications and the use of found photographs, placing the past and present in conversation with one another. The artworks comprise two distinct bodies of work, both of which function as roadmaps of remembrance, infusing place and time with personal and collective meaning.

Mr. Cummings combines old-world painting techniques with collaged photographs, resulting in highly detailed, narrative landscapes evocative of 19th-century American painting traditions.

Ms. West applies intricate metalworking skills to three-dimensional geometric forms laced with transparent photographs and mounted to wood panels in her "Memorial Objects" series.

"Case Study," an initiative that provides a public platform for installation artists, features the sculptural work of Ms. Stein. Characterized by the use of furniture and other daily objects, Ms. Stein's work provokes the viewer to think about loneliness and longing through the unsettling transformation of mundane things into emotionally resonant sculptures.

Mr. Cummings is a painter and muralist from Raleigh. He has a bachelor's degree in visual design from North Carolina State University's College of Design. Mr. Cummings is a member of the Artspace Artist Association and an exhibiting member of the Visual Art Exchange in Raleigh. He has exhibited his work locally and nationally and will be featured as part of a group exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery in London later this year.

Ms. West is a jeweler and artist from Raleigh. She received a bachelor's degree in metal design, magna cum laude, from East Carolina University and a certificate in jewelry making and repair from North Bennet Street School. In 2012, Ms. West completed the Artspace Regional Emerging Artist Residency in Raleigh and received the North Carolina Arts Council Fellowship Grant. Currently, she maintains a studio space at Artspace in Raleigh and is a jewelry instructor at Pullen Arts Center. Ms. West has exhibited her work nationally in group and solo shows.

Ms. Stein is a sculptor and installation artist from Durham. She is currently working to obtain a master's degree in sculpture from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she is also a teaching fellow and online instructor for the art department. She has exhibited work in solo and group exhibitions around the Triangle. In 2012, Ms. Stein won the David A. Dowdy Jr. Award for sculpture, and in 2014 she will be an associate artist-in-residence at the Atlantic Center for the Arts in New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

Connecting local artists to community through ongoing exhibitions and public outreach, the Block Gallery was dedicated in 2006 to honor Miriam Preston Block, a former Raleigh City Council member and community leader. Greeting all visitors to the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, the gallery's marble walls and elegant staircase provide an ideal setting for showcasing original artworks. Exhibits change every eight to 12 weeks.

Managed by the City's Office of Raleigh Arts, the Block Gallery is located on the first and second floors of the Upchurch Government Complex, located at 222 W. Hargett St. The gallery is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Monday through Friday except on holidays.

The Office of Raleigh Arts supports and promotes the arts in Raleigh by administering the programs of the Raleigh Arts Commission and the Public Art and Design Board, and supporting the Pullen and Sertoma arts centers. The Office of Raleigh Arts is part of the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.



For more information, contact the Office of Raleigh Arts at 919-996-3610. The public can follow the Block Gallery on Facebook, Twitter or at Discover Raleigh Arts.

## Fair Housing Conference Set for April 11

Howard N. Lee, former North Carolina state senator and former mayor of Chapel Hill, will be the keynote speaker at the 12th Annual Fair Housing Conference hosted by the City of Raleigh Fair Housing Hearing Board and the Fair Housing Project of Legal Aid of North Carolina. The conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, April 11, at the Raleigh Convention Center, 500 S. Salisbury St.

Mr. Lee has published several writings, including "Twelve Strategies for Effective Leaders" and "The Courage to Lead, One Man's Journey in Public Service." He is president of the Howard N. Lee Institute, which provides tools and resources for children, communities and educators to succeed.

Early registration for the Fair Housing Conference is \$10 for Wake County residents and \$25 for non-Wake County residents. The early registration deadline is March 28. Late registration is \$15 for Wake County residents and \$30 for non-Wake County residents. The last day for late registration is April 4. Registration fees are non-refundable.

## Detour Route in Place for Closing of Lake Dam Road Bridge



The City of Raleigh has established a detour route for the closing of a bridge on Lake Dam Road between Avent Ferry Road and Tryon Road. The bridge over Walnut Creek has been closed to traffic indefinitely after a routine inspection this week revealed structural deficiencies.

Lake Dam Road is closed from Crab Orchard Drive to North Walnut Creek Parkway as a result of the bridge being shut down. Following is a detour route the City has posted:

- Motorists traveling north on Lake Dam Road from Tryon Road to Avent Ferry Road will continue on Tryon Road to Gorman Street, where they will turn left and proceed to Avent Ferry Road. Drivers will turn left on Avent Ferry Road and left again back onto Lake Dam Road; and,
- Motorist traveling south on Lake Dam Road from Avent Ferry

Road to Tryon Road will continue on Avent Ferry Road to Gorman Street, where they will turn right and proceed to Tryon Road. Motorists will turn right onto Tryon Road and right again back onto Lake Dam Road.

Lake Johnson Park and greenway remain open to the public. Parking to these areas can be accessed only from Avent Ferry Road.

The Lake Dam Road bridge and 47 other bridges maintained by the City of Raleigh are inspected biannually as part of a federal program. KCI Engineering inspected the Lake Dam Road bridge and recommended that it be closed because two of the members, or beams, in the northern span of the bridge are showing signs of failure. The concrete deck bridge was constructed in 1966.

A contract for engineering design services for repairs to the Lake Dam Road bridge is scheduled to be presented to the City Council for its consideration on April 1.

## Follow the City of Raleigh on Twitter



Looking for the most up-to-date information from the City of Raleigh? Follow your local government via Twitter! Twitter is a free services that allows you to "follow" people or subjects via short, frequent updates. The City of Raleigh now offers Twitter users the opportunity to stay informed about the latest news and breaking events.

Currently, the City maintains the following accounts:

RaleighGov - This feed features links to any news releases and alerts issued by the City of Raleigh;

RaleighBPAC - This feed features information from the City of Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission;

RaleighParks - This feed features news and information related to the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department;

RaleighPlanning - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Planning and Development Department;  
RalCommServices - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Community Services Department;

RW911 - This feed features traffic accidents reported to the Emergency Communications Center;

RaleighGoGreen - This feed features news and information from the City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services Department Recycling program.

RalPublicArt - This feed features information about the City of Raleigh Arts Commission Public Art Program.

To follow any of these, simply choose "Find People" from your Twitter home page and type in the account name you are interested in and then click "follow." It's that easy.

## Follow the City of Raleigh on Facebook



City of Raleigh - The main City of Raleigh Facebook page keeps you informed about events, holidays and other news items.

City of Raleigh Planning and Development - The Raleigh Planning and Development page provides guidance for the growth, preservation and development of the City of Raleigh in order to maintain a community of lasting value.

City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department - Keep with news and information from the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department.

Community Services Department - The Community Services Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

Emergency Communications - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagement and other 911 related happenings.

Raleigh Police Department -The Raleigh Police Department Facebook page focuses on public safety. Posts concerning crime alerts, missing people, requests for citizen assistance and more.

Raleigh Public Art - Raleigh Arts Commission's Public Art program is an essential building block for the creation of engaging, imaginative spaces throughout the city. Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

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## Traffic Alerts

For more City of Raleigh News and Updates on Road Closures, Parades and Road Races, visit the City's website at [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov).

## Street Closings

### First Friday Closings

On First Friday of each month, from 6 p.m. to midnight, the 00 block of Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and Wilmington

Street will be closed. This closure will also include the south side sidewalk of the block.

**Lenoir Street** will be closed from Wilmington Street to Fayetteville Street from March 3 until August 29. On August 29, the southernmost lane of Lenoir will be opened.

**March 22** Traffic will be affected in the vicinity of Hunting Ridge Road from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The participants will gather on Hunting Ridge Road, they will travel northeast and turn right on N. Ridge Road, head east to Pony Run Road, turn left on Rainwater Road, turn left on Spyglass Way, and turn left on Wingfoot Drive. The runners will turn around and return by the same route.

**March 29** Traffic will be affected near Hillsborough Street from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. for a road race. Runners will gather in the 00 block of Dixie Trail. They will turn right on Hillsborough Street, turn on Gorman Street, return east on Hillsborough Street, turn around at the traffic circle on Pullen Road, continue west on Hillsborough Street, and turn right on Home Street to the finish line.

**March 29** The 200 block of S. Blount Street will be closed from 9 a.m. until 2 a.m. on March 3.



**Live & Local**

Hillsborough Street

**Saturday**

**April 12, 2014**

[www.hillsboroughstreet.org](http://www.hillsboroughstreet.org)



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